(c) how many ships are imported for ship-breaking during the last five years-sourcewise; and

(d) the details of the foreign proposals received in this regard and followup action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government on the proposals received ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) A delegation of the Joint Committee of Ship Owners and Ship-breakers of Japan visited India in November, 1992 to survey the shipbreaking capacity in India.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected from the concerned agencies and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Taping over of IISCO

3200. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the opposition from the five major trade unions HMS, BMS, CITU, INTUC and AITUC to the proposed conversion of the Burnpur Steel Plant of the IISCO into a joint venture;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure and safeguard the interests of the workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The trade unions had suggested in July, 1992 and reiterated in March 1993 that the Burnpur Works of IISCO should be modernised by SAIL based on its proposal considered by Government; the Burnpur Works cannot be treated separately as a joint venture; etc.

(c) Government are examining possibilities of private participation in IISCO for the purpose of modernising/expanding the Burnpur Steel Works to a crude steel capacity of 1.5 million tonnes per annum, in a cost and time-effective manner. While doing so, Government are committed to ensuring full protection of the Workers' interests.

Extension to Executives of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

3201. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of executives of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant who got extension in Service, so far;

(b) the number of proposals which are still pending for clearance; and

(c) what is the policy of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) In one case, extension of service was granted for a period of two years beyond the age of superannuation. In another case, an Executive was re-employed for the period of 6 months after his retirement on superannuation. Approval of Government was given in these two cases in public interest

(b) No such proposal is pending with the Government.

(c) Extension of service beyond the age of superannuaion is allowed only rarely and in exceptional circumstances in public interest.

Handing over of IISCO to Mukund Ltd.

3202. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of foreign and Indian companies which have made formal bid in equity participation in the Joint venture for Indian Iron and Steel Company;

(b) whether Shankar Committee has recommended handing over of Indian Iron and Steel Company to Mukund Ltd.;

(c) if so, what are the details of recommendations made; and

(d) the action Government have taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) While no foreign company has made a bid to participate in the equity of Indian Iron & Steel Company (IISCO), 2 Indian companies namely, M/s Mukund Ltd. and M/s Usha Rectifier Corporation of India made bids to participate in the equity. The Committee of Experts, under the chairmanship of Shri T. L. Sankar had recommended the offer made by M/s. Mukund for acceptance.

(c) and (d) The recommendations made by the Committee of Experts are under consideration and Government have not so far taken any decision in this regard.

Sale of IISCO Shares to Private Concerns

3203. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) has been in the red and Government have decided to sell 51 per cent of its equity shares to private concerns;

(b) what were the accumulated losses of Indian Iron and Steel Company on 31st December, 1992 and the causes thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that no reputed private company came forward to take over this company; if so what alternative measures Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c) As per the audited accounts of Indian Iron & Steel Company (IISCO), the company has accumulated a loss of Rs. 757.5 crores, as on 31-3-1992. Between April and December, 1992, the company is estimated to have incurred a loss of Rs. 19.70 crores, taking the accumulated loss to Rs. 775.25 crores as on 31-12-1992. The losses are due to technological obsolescence, ageing of plant and management, out-moded operational practices, inadequate capital injection, surplus manpower, etc.

Government had constituted a Committee of Experts (COE) to obtain bids for private participation in IISCO with the objective of modernising/expanding IISCO to a crude steel capacity of 1.5 million tonnes per annum, in a cost-and-time-effective manner. The COE had received 2 bids—from M/s Mukund Ltd. and M/s. Usha Rectifier Corporation (India) Ltd., envisaging participation in the equity and modernisation of IISCO. The recommendations made by the COE are under consideration and Government have not so far taken any decision in this regard.

Supply of Steel Crane by SAIL to Singapore Firm

3204. SHRI IQBAL SINGH :
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that SAIL had entered into an agreement to supply steel Crane to Small Singapore based trading company 'Sarna Trading' which has a paid up capital of Rs. 1 crore only;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the loss suffered by SAIL in this deal; and

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed on this account ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) SAIL has not entered into an agreement to supply steel crane to the Singapore based trading Company "SARANA Trading".

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Agencies involved in Housing Schemes

3205. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of agencies involved in mass housing schemes;

(b) whether it is a fact that inspite of many agencies involved, many housing complex are below the prescribed standards;